# CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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12 August 1969
ENGLISH

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FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 12 August 1969, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. I.F. PORTER (United Kingdom)

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PRESENT AT THE TABLE

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| Argentina: | Mr. C. ORTIZ de ROZAS |
| | Mr. A.F. DUMONT |
| | Mr. O. SARACHO |
| Brazil: | Mr. S.A. FRAZAO |
| | Mr. P. CABRAL de MELLO |
| | Mr. L.F. PALMEIRA LAMPREIA |
| Bulgaria: | Mr. K. CHRISTOV |
| | Mr. M. KARASSIMEONOV |
| | Mr. I. PEINIRDJIEV |
| Burma: | U KYAW MIN |
| Canada: | Mr. G. IGNATIEFF |
| | Mr. R.W. CLARK |
| | Mr. J.R. MORDEN |
| Czechoslovakia: | Mr. T. LAHODA |
| | Mr. M. VEJVODA |
| | Mr. J. CINGROS |
| Ethiopia: | Mr. A. ZELLEKE |
| Hungary: | Mr. I. KOMIVES |
| | Mr. I. SARKADI |
| | Mr. J. PETRAN |
| | Mr. S. HAJNAL |
| India: | Mr. N. KRISHNAN |
| | Mr. K.P. JAIN |
| Italy: | Mr. R. CARACCIOLO |
| | Mr. F.L. OTTIERI |
| | Mr. R. BORSARELLI |
| | Mr. U. PESTALOZZA |

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|---|---|
| Japan: | Mr. K. ASAKAI |
| | Mr. Y. NAKAYAMA |
| | Mr. M. OGISO |
| | Mr. T. SENGOKU |
| Mexico: | Mr. J. CASTANEDA |
| | Miss E. AGUIRRE |
| | Mr. R. VALERO |
| Mongolia: | Mr. M. DUGERSUREN |
| | Mr. S. ADIKHOU |
| Morocco: | Mr. A.T. BENHIMA |
| | Mr. A.A. KHATTABI |
| Netherlands: | Mr. H.F. ESCHAUZIER |
| | Mr. E. BOS |
| Nigeria: | Alhaji SULE KOLO |
| | Mr. L.A. MALIKI |
| Pakistan: | Mr. A. SHAHI |
| | Mr. K. AHMED |
| Poland: | Mr. A. CZARKOWSKI |
| | Mr. A. SKOWRONSKI |
| | Mr. H. STEPOSZ |
| | Mr. R. WLAZLO |
| Romania: | Mr. O. IONESCO |
| | Mr. C. GEORGESCO |
| | Mr. A. SASU |
| | Mr. C. MITRAN |

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| Sweden: | Mr. A. EDELSTAM |
| | Mr. I. VIRGIN |
| | Mr. R. BOMAN |
| | Mr. U. ERICSSON |
| Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: | Mr. A.A. ROSHCHIN |
| | Mr. R.M. TIMERBAEV |
| | Mr. V.V. SHOUSTOV |
| | Mr. V.B. TOULINOV |
| United Arab Republic: | Mr. H. KHALLAF |
| | Mr. O. SIRRY |
| | Mr. E.S. El REEDY |
| | Mr. M. ISMAIL |
| United Kingdom: | Mr. I.F. PORTER |
| | Mr. W.N. HILLIER-FRY |
| | Mr. R.I.T. CROMARTIE |
| United States of America: | Mr. J.F. LEONARD |
| | Mr. A.F. WEIDLE |
| | Mr. W. GIVAN |
| | Mr. R. McCORMACK |
| Yugoslavia: | Mr. M. BOZINOVIC |
| Special Representative of the Secretary-General: | Mr. D. PROTITCH |
| Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General: | Mr. W. EPSTEIN |

1. The CHAIRMAN (United Kingdom): I declare open the 427th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

2. Before calling on Ambassador Benhima, the representative of Morocco, I should like to welcome him and also the leader of the Argentine delegation, Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas, who are with us for the first time today.

3. Mr. BENHIMA (Morocco) (translation from French): I was very sorry that I could not arrive in time to be present at the meeting last Thursday. However, the representative of Morocco to the international organizations in Geneva was good enough to express to the Chairman of that meeting, to the two Powers that act as co-Chairmen of the Committee, and to the members of the Conference, the thanks of the Government of Morocco and our satisfaction at joining in this Conference many States which for several years have been dealing with a problem basic to world peace.

4. This morning I have the great privilege of transmitting to the Conference a message from His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco. The text is:

> "At the time when the Kingdom of Morocco is invited to participate in the work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, it is particularly gratifying to Us to express Our satisfaction at the constant efforts which your institution has been making for a decade to translate into deeds the principle of peaceful co-existence -- a principle to which the conscience of all peoples has given an exceptional significance and which, at a critical time in international relations, can constitute a new promise for a better future only if cessation of the armaments race is seriously envisaged.
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> "All the voices that have been raised in the world for almost ten years in favour of disarmament, at first partial and then complete, have been seeking in reality to express -- despite differences in their ideologies and their strength -- the deep concern of all the peoples at the disastrous consequences of a dangerous competition that threatened to lead mankind to a dismal fate.

(Mr. Benhima, Morocco)

"For Our part, We have not ceased to affirm Our choice in favour of disarmament. We have made it a constant element of Our foreign policy and We have supported unremittingly every initiative designed to limit and reduce military potentials, whoever may promote or possess them.

"A year ago a large number of countries acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[1]; still more recently the two Powers the co-Chairmen of your Conference have announced their joint willingness to undertake fresh discussions on the problem of anti-missile defence systems.

"These are encouraging results which it behoves Us to note with satisfaction and which strengthen the conviction We have always held and the confidence We have always expressed in the results of the efforts which your Conference has constantly made.

"We are convinced that, thanks to the firm resolve of the States participating in this Conference and to the unflagging efforts which together we shall make unceasingly, we shall put an end to the anxiety which human technology has aroused in this field.

"May God guide us in the path of wisdom and direct us towards the solutions most likely to ensure for all peoples of the earth peace, tranquillity and progress."

5. I will venture to add a few comments on behalf of the Moroccan delegation to indicate quite clearly and to bring to the attention of members of this Conference what I might call Morocco's antecedents in disarmament and the intentions of our Government now that our responsibilities become more direct and so greater.

6. As soon as the problem of disarmament was brought before international bodies the Government of Morocco, at a time when it was a very delicate matter for some countries to adopt a position on the problem, very clearly announced the direction in which it would act in relation to disarmament. Many members of this Conference will recall that at the Belgrade Conference in 1960 the Sovereign of Morocco devoted a very large part of his statement to an explanation of the Moroccan point of view on this question, calling for disarmament at least partial and at least in certain areas of the world. And he supported at that time the only plan for regional disarmament, which concerned Europe and was known by the name of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland.

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(Mr. Benhima, Morocco)

7. Later, Morocco took the initiative of raising at the United Nations the problem of nuclear tests in the Sahara. We obtained from the General Assembly the most positive resolutions on the subject at that time.

8. Since then, in the First Committee of the United Nations, Morocco has taken initiatives, or has joined in other initiatives by friendly States, to propose resolutions aimed at reducing and eliminating armaments and ending the arms race in all its forms; and thus we have been constantly associated, at all levels of meetings of international organizations, with a continuing movement for disarmament. In the records of all those meetings will be found the statements made by Moroccan delegations, and the positions they have adopted at the United Nations itself and in the regional or other international organizations which have dealt with this problem.

9. In participating today in the work of this Committee, we are convinced and we are aware -- thanks to the confidence extended to Morocco by the countries of the two co-Chairmen and by other members of the Committee -- that we are undertaking more direct responsibilities. Of course, the problem of disarmament has now reached the stage of technical discussions which call for a certain competence. We certainly do not presume to intervene positively, from the outset of our presence here, on certain technical aspects. But I can assure you fully that we shall waste no time and put ourselves rapidly into the picture, with the co-operation of all members, so that we can assume in this Committee the responsibility which you expect of us and of which we shall have to render account both to our country and to all mankind.

10. Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina) (translation from Spanish): I wish to make a very brief statement to express my personal gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, for the very kind words of welcome with which you were good enough to greet my presence here as the head of the Argentine delegation.

11. The CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind the Committee at this point that we have a meeting in informal session tomorrow at 10.30 a.m. to discuss the question of a comprehensive test ban. I should like also to reconvene the Committee in about five minutes for a brief informal meeting.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

"The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament today held its 427th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador I.F. Porter, representative of the United Kingdom.

"Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Argentina and the Chairman.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 14 August 1969, at 10.30 a.m.".

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.